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BRITISH LUTHERAN

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INFORMATION, ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Issued by

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St. David

Of ST. DAVID, or DEWI SANT, the patron saint of Wales, very little is known but we should think of him not so much as an abbot or bishop, though he was both, but as a theologian and head of a large theological seminary. The earliest biography of David, by Rhygyfarch or Ricimas, dates from the second half of the eleventh century.

Like Columba, David is said to have sprung from a noble family. His grandfather was Ceredig, famous among the chiefs of Cardigan. After his ordination he went with his disciples about Wales founding churches and teaching the people. A quiet and studious man, David then withdrew into retirement finally settling at Menevia, the modern St. Davids where he and his followers led a life of extreme severity like that of the Egyptian monks.

The Western Church was at this time plagued by heresy called Pelagianism. Pelagius was a British monk, probably called Morgan in his own land, who taught that man, though he needs God's help, yet can of his own power save himself. To defend the orthodox faith against this heresy, St. David was called out of retirement. His high reputation for theological learning he justified. At two great synods, that of Llanddewi Brefi in 560, and the "Synod of Victory" at Caerleon in 569, he spoke with such conviction and learning that the false teaching of Pelagius was overthrown.

When this vigorous and learned defender of the faith was unanimously elected the primate of the British Church, it is said that he transferred the episcopal see from the Roman fortress on the Usk at Caerleon, to his own Menevia in the remotest extremity of South Wales.

A legend says that David died crying: "Lord, take me up after Thee!" This was probably in Menevia in the year 601. In 1398 it was ordered that his death-day, March 1st, should be remembered as St. David's Day.

Guatemala

AN ADVERTISEMENT placed into a Guatemalan newspaper opened the door for our Church into this Central American country. Christian tracts in the Spanish language were offered to readers by a Lutheran pastor in Texas. A Guatemalan reader responded, studied the tracts, became convinced that this was the pure Gospel, and then wrote back to the Church concerned asking for a pastor.

This took place in 1947. Today the Lutheran Church of Guatemala has 9 full-time workers, 627 baptized members, 11 Sunday Schools and 2 parochial schools.

From the very beginning, a thoroughly indigenous church was envisioned. Gifted young Guatemalans won for Christ were immediately prepared by in-service training for evangelistic and pastoral work. By selling Bibles and Bible pictures, by gathering children for Sunday School, the work was gradually spread from Zacapa and Guatemala City to the ocean port of Puerto Barrios and to the ancient capital, Antigua. In the villages between, much of the prejudice against the Lutheran mission was overcome by the appointment of an "agricultural missionary". At Antigua, a hostel was purchased and converted into a medical centre with a Guatemalan doctor in charge. The revolution which shook the country in 1954 forced the closing of this hospital for a time.

As elsewhere in South America and in other parts of the world, the Lutheran Hour has been a powerful instrument in the hands of our missionaries in Guatemala. At Antigua is a thriving area office of "Bringing Christ to the Nations".

Through the Lutheran Hour, the Lutheran Church of Guatemala has established its first mission in the neighbouring country of El Salvador. Only three years old, the El Salvador Lutheran mission has already more than 100 souls.



JOHN SIMS

Birth in Kent, infancy in Hong Kong, schooling in Melbourne and London were mileposts on the road that led ultimately back to Kent and to a Lutheran pastorate.

Born near Rochester in Kent on June 19, 1932, John Sims was taken, as a child of three, by his mother to Hong Kong where his father, a Royal Engineer, had been transferred. War broke out. Mother and son fled before the Japanese to the Philippines and to Australia. Father stayed behind to become a prisoner-of-war in Hong Kong.

In 1945, father and son were reunited in London. Five years later, seventeen-year old John left his home to emigrate and to study aeronautics in Australia. But God had different plans.

Through the Australian Lutheran Hour, Mr. Sims became acquainted with, and convinced of, Lutheran teaching, entered Concordia Theological Seminary, Adelaide, graduating in December of 1956. Before returning to his native Kent to take up the post at Bromley and Petts Wood, he was married to Miss Rosemarie Ebel.

Pastor Sims is Chairman of the Board for Youth.

DID WE START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT ?

With the season of Advent we enter a new church year. We prepare ourselves to welcome anew the Lord Jesus into our hearts and are mindful of the fact that He will come again on the Last Day.

This Jesus, who came as a babe born on Christmas Eve, came to earth for a most specific purpose. His very name reminds us of that purpose. Jesus means Saviour. He came to save you and me. He came to save all men.

Are we sharing this Saviour with all men?

Two questions.

1. Do you realize that everyone who does not believe in Jesus as his Saviour will be damned?

God says: "He that believeth not shall be damned." Your relation, neighbour, friend, or acquaintance who does not believe in Jesus is lost. And do you realize that there are 1,800,000,000 in the world who are still heathen?

2. Do you believe that faith in Jesus is the only way to heaven?

God says: "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." If there were any other way to heaven, wouldn't God have said so? But He says that there is no other way.

It's "either - or". If I believe in Jesus, I am saved. If I do not, I am damned.

Jesus wants you to tell others about Him. You have no choice in the matter. You are a Christian.

You, I, each and every one of us, has a job to do. Let's pray for the unbelieving, tell others about Jesus, work and give regularly and liberally for missions.

Let's make this new church year the greatest year of missionary activity our congregation has ever known. Let's start now!!!

PETTS WOOD "Martin Luther" film on three successive October Sunday evenings drew substantial audiences, most of them new local contacts spacious new parsonage at 1, Towncourt Crescent completely rewired and redecorated Luther-Tyndale youth defeat Petts Wood in debate on topic: "The Decimal System should be Introduced into England", Mr. Victor Graf in the chair youth enjoyed excellent illustrated talk by Mr. Graf on the seismograph method of locating oil ... young people gather in huge garden of parsonage for open-air barbecue with sausages, ash-cooked potatoes, chestnuts roasted over a blazing log fire, all singing to the tune of a guitar ... "baby recognition test" to identify photographs of club members, including parson, taken before age of four ... SS hit by chicken-pox and 'flu.

BROMLEY Youth Club arrange old folks' party of farewell to South Africa-bound Mrs. Clarke preparation for Nativity tableau to be given at Christmas social.. "Martin Luther" film well attended ... Harvest Festival offerings in cash and kind given to local Spastics group.

CARDIFF Pastor Brammeier and family settled in temporary parsonage in Roath Park where weekly worship service is conducted every Sunday at 6.. Polish Lutheran family attend continuing survey of Cardiff uncovers likely church site at focal crossroads in Fairwater.

CAMBRIDGE Even at Cambridge where things move so slowly through the centuries, little beginnings have a way of growing our little beginning towards a theological training programme has been made Mr. Norman Nagel is now a member of the University and his research studies toward the doctorate have begun the Nagels will be moving into their new home at 74, Thornton Road, Girton, in mid-December.

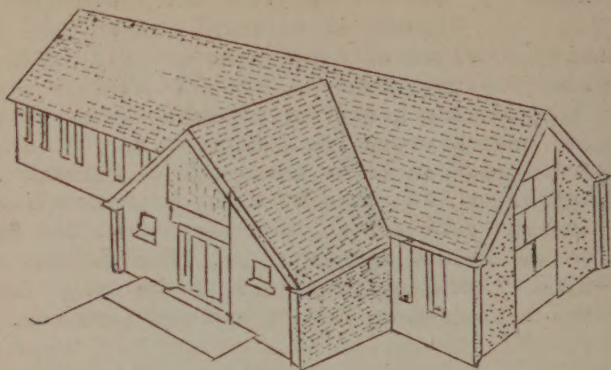
TOTTENHAM Harvest Festival with Mayor of Tottenham in official attendance drew capacity audience with offering of £12 going to Mayor's "Distress Fund" ... 5000 handbills placed into surrounding homes for "Martin Luther" film ... 350 people attend in 4 nights 10 adults under instruction to be confirmed in January visitation of 100 homes by mission teams climaxed by Mission Festival on October 20th, the Revs. Pearce and Heintz preaching Bible Class buys 750-watt filmstrip projector to be used for SS and for illustrating Advent evening services.

RUISLIP Philip Melanchthon, Robert Barnes, William Tyndale, Miles Coverdale and many other friends of the Reformer were present at the very select "Martin Luther Birthday Party" on Nov. 12th where only Luther's friends and relations were admitted ... among the games: "Katy's Shoe" .. youth also planning socials on Christmas and New Year's Eve, the latter ending with watch-night service .. four showings of "Martin Luther" attracted 250 .. Ladies' Guild dispatched sixteen clothing parcels to Hungary and provided £5 postage .. many good toys gathered by SS for children in Hungary ... two adults confirmed Nov. 3rd.

SUNDERLAND "Martin Luther" film held over for a second week ... more than 700 new contacts made during 14 successive showings, 8 of whom joined Pastor Bosch's first adult class for thrilling news of Grindon, see another page.

KENTISH TOWN Last Sundays of Pastor Nagel, now called to Cambridge, eventful ones:
 October 6th: Harvest Festival with Mayor of St. Pancras attending donates produce to children's hospital and £25 to Mayor's Charities Fund
 October 13th: Missionary Schweppe of Nigeria
 Adult Confirmation on final Sunday, Nov. 10th, raises total to 16 confirmations during 1957.

BOREHAMWOOD DEDICATION



Every chair was filled and a score or more people were standing at the Service of Dedication of the Lutheran Church Hall at Boreham Wood on the Last Sunday after Trinity, Nov. 24th. "This is, at this moment, the newest church in the world", said Mr. Catford, Chairman of the Elstree Rural District Council, speaking after the service.

At the beginning of the opening ceremony, Mr. Dean of Cramb and Dean, the builders, handed the key to the Boreham Wood pastor, the Rev. W. P. Borgas. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. N. Nagel of Cambridge, while the Rite of Dedication was spoken by the Rev. E. Geo. Pearce, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Church.

The hall and adjoining parsonage, about a year in building, were constructed at a cost of £16,000. The hall, 70'x22', is of cream brick with a red-tiled roof. Its interior with natural pine ceiling and floor presents a light and warm appearance and can be divided into two rooms by a sliding partition.

During the six evenings preceding the Dedication, the "Martin Luther" film was shown to more than 400 people. Divine services will be held in the hall every Sunday at 10 a.m. and Sunday School at 3 p.m.

LONDON PASTORS FETED

House-warming for Pastor and Mrs. Sims

On Thursday evening, October 31st, Pastor and Mrs. John Sims were surprised upon walking into Petts Wood Memorial Hall for the regular youth evening to find instead some fifty congregation, youth, and Sunday School members at white-laid tables standing to welcome them to a house-warming party in their honour. A chorus of welcome from the Sunday School children was followed by a ballad written by the Youth Club for the occasion and sung to the tune of "Waltzing Matilda". Mr. S. Watkins spoke warmly for the adults. Useful household gifts were opened and acknowledged by Pastor Sims during the tea.

Farewell to Pastor Nagel and Family

Members and friends of Luther-Tyndale gathered at the Church Hall on Saturday, Nov. 9th, to bid farewell to their pastor, the Rev. Norman E. Nagel, who will leave soon for Cambridge. Messrs. Harry Smith and Raymond Dunsbier spoke gratefully of the consecrated service rendered by Mr. Nagel since his ordination at Luther-Tyndale in January 1954. In their replies, both Pastor and Mrs. Nagel asked for the prayers of the congregation as they took up their new responsibilities at Cambridge. A handsome presentation of money was made by Mr. George Lawton on behalf of the congregation.

JANUARY OPENING FOR SUNDERLAND'S SECOND MISSION

Little more than three years ago, the first English Lutheran mission in the North was opened in Sunderland. In January 1958, Sunderland will have a second ELCE mission at Grindon on the crossroads of four large new housing estates. The Executive Council reports that negotiations for both site and building have been successfully completed. The plan of Pastor Floyd Bosch and his congregation to have members and friends of the church themselves redecorate both interior and exterior of the former Methodist hall has already attracted the attention of Sunderland newspapers.

HEINTZ ACCEPTS LUTHER-TYNDALE CALL

The Rev. Norman Heintz will be installed as pastor of Luther-Tyndale Memorial Congregation on Sunday, Dec. 15th. Since his arrival in England last September, Mr. Heintz has been surveying large urban centres of the British Isles on behalf of the Executive Council. Pastor and Mrs. Heintz will move into Luther-Tyndale's parsonage at 36 Leaside Ave., London N. 10, in early December.

GLASGOW SURVEY OPTIMISTIC

Glasgow with two million people living within or just outside its borders, Britain's second city, offers challenging opportunities to our Church, reports the Rev. Norman Heintz. Two, in particular, are singled out. A fine two-acre site on the main Carmunock Road in the almost-completed 34,000 inhabitant Castlemilk Housing Estate is the one. The other, in the heart of Scotland's metropolis, is in the Gorbals, a district well known for its slums but in the process of being redeveloped over a period of 20 years. Here several suitable church buildings are available for purchase.


Further surveys will be carried out in Manchester, Leeds, Belfast, and other northern cities.

NEW ELCE OFFICE IN CENTRAL LONDON

An indication of the growth of our Church is the modest new one-room office acquired recently at 33 Percy Street, London W.1, five minutes' walk from either Tottenham Court Road or Goodge Street Stations. The premises will serve as the office of the Executive Council, its chairman and its parish-worker, Miss Charlotte Lawton. If you wish to pay a visit, you will be made welcome.

CALL FOR 1958 SYNOD RESOLUTIONS


Notices have been sent out to all congregations, church boards and committees, and other competent bodies to submit their resolutions for the 1958 Synod to the Secretary before January 15th.



Christmas Gifts


FROM

CONCORDIA




"THIS DAY" SUBSCRIPTION

What better gift to a friend than a year's subscription to this Christian family magazine with its superb colour photographs? 30/ will bring delight and joy to its reader for 12 months.



BIBLES, HYMNALS, PRAYER BOOKS


If you cannot decide which, give a Concordia Gift Token in any amount you wish. These can be spent at Concordia for books, magazines, or filmstrips.



FULL-COLOUR BIBLE FILMSTRIPS

Concordia's full range of beautifully coloured 35mm Bible story filmstrips make an excellent Christmas gift to your Sunday School or congregation.

Concordia - your Church's gift centre



CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE
16-22 GT. RUSSELL STREET
LONDON W.C.1

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS



To the Christian there can be only one answer to that question, and that answer is CHRIST.

The trees, the toys, and the tinsel; the gifts, the greetings, and the good fellowship - all of these are a part of our modern year-end celebration. But these are not the things that make Christmas Christmas.

The heart of Christmas is the cry of the angel messenger: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Christmas is, above all else, the birthday of the Son of God. It is the day on which the eternal God sent His eternal Son into the world to carry out the eternal plan of man's redemption.

Christ Himself explained that plan when He said: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

That fact, and nothing else, makes Christmas Christmas.

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